

AMENDMENT

Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A method of initiating an immune response[[s]] specific for transactivating protein or reverse transcriptase of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) in an animal, said method comprises the step of:

administering to said animal ~~with~~ an attenuated bacterial host comprising a recombinant plasmid that carries a fusion protein construct, wherein said fusion protein construct comprises ~~comprising~~ a gene required for surface exposure and a gene encoding said transactivating protein or reverse transcriptase of HIV-1, wherein said bacterial host can induce both cellular and humoral anti-HIV-1 immune responses in said animal.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said immune response[[s]] comprises a mucosal IgA response and a helper T cell response.

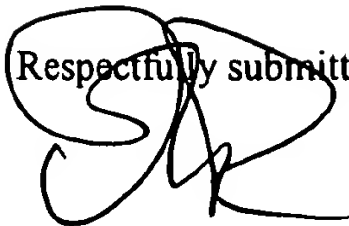
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said attenuated bacterial host is administered orally.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said attenuated bacterial host is administered in an oral dose of from about 10^{12} to about 10^{14} CFU.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said gene required for surface exposure encodes *E. coli* lipoprotein signal sequende linked to a portion of the *E. coli* outer membrane protein ompA.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said attenuated bacterial host is a strain of *Salmonella typhimurium*, SL3261.

Respectfully submitted,


David L. Parker
Reg. No. 32,165
Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 526-3055
(512) 536-4598 (facsimile)

Date: October 21, 2005